enquiry, they found that the work was hampered by two circumstances, firstly, the necessity for referring practically all applications to the Forest department under the rules then in force, and secondly, the valuation of timber trees standing on waste lands at excessive rates in most cases. This latter circumstance was also brought to notice at the last session of the Assembly. To remove these impediments, it was laid down that no reference need be made to the Forest department in connection with the registry of waste lands lying *outside* settled reserves or areas notified for reservation and that the valuation of the trees standing on such lands might be done by the Revenue department itself. Favourable rates of valuation, for the trees standing on waste lands, were also sanctioned during the year.

While on the subject of waste lands, I have to mention that it was brought to the notice of His Highness' Government during the year that such lands were being assigned at unduly low rates of assessment in several of the taluks. I need hardly say that the Sirkar's right of property in waste lands is absolute and that it is our duty to see that the revenue due to the Sirkar is not in any case needlessly sacrificed. After a full discussion of the question with the Settlement and the Division Peishkars, His Highness' Government directed that, *in future*, the minimum assessment to be imposed on *unregistered* dry lands shall be four fanams per acre in the Padmanabhapuram and Trivandrum divisions and five fanams per acre in the remaining two divisions. I am glad to be able to say—as the result of enquiries made by me personally in several taluks—that these minimum rates have not in any way deterred applications for waste lands. Allied to the subject of puduvals is that of porambokes. His Highness' Government had reason to fear that the question whether a poramboke was really required for any public or communal purpose did not always receive careful consideration at the hands of the officers of the Revenue department. When the Poramboke Regulation was passed, it was not the intention that the machinery of prosecution &c. provided by it should be set in motion automatically in *every* case of encroachment. Orders were issued during the year insisting on *all* cases of alleged poramboke encroachments being inspected *personally* either by the Peishkars or their Assistants, so that, in those cases where the encroachments were unobjectionable in the sense that the areas occupied were not required for any public or communal purpose, steps could be taken to transfer those areas to the head of assessed waste and to register them in the names of the occupants. In future, convictions under the Regulation and orders of ejectment would be passed only in those cases in which the superior officers consider the vacating of the encroachments absolutely necessary. I may also mention that, even in cases where it may not be possible to assign a poramboke, it is allowable to the Revenue department, under the existing rules, to grant the trees standing on such poramboke, either on permanent registry or on kuthagapattom. In regard to all unoccupied lands, whether puduvals, or porambokes, or nirthal lands, His Highness' Government *have* to rely on the local officers to say which of them could be assigned for cultivation and which should be retained intact.

6. Applications for agricultural loans.—Including the previous year's balance, there were only two applications for loans under Regulation IV of 1066 before the Peishkars. One of these was disposed of during the year.

Though the Regulation was passed 18 years ago, it has been found to be

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practically inoperative. This fact was prominently brought to notice at the last session of the Assembly and the enquiry since made showed that the main causes were:—

(1) the narrow scope of the Regulation, which applied only to wet lands and not to garden or dry lands,

(2) the delay in the grant of loans, and

(3) the absence of any specific allotment for the purpose.

With a view to remedy these defects, His Highness' Government have ordered the amendment of the Regulation so as to make it applicable to garden and dry as well as to wet lands and they have also impressed upon the officers of the Revenue department the necessity for the prompt disposal of all applications under the Regulation. Arrangements have been made for funds being regularly allotted in the annual budgets for loans to agriculturists.

7. Kist months.—One of the subjects brought forward at the last session was the question of kist months. I then promised that the matter would receive consideration. Orders have since issued to change the kists for the Kanni crop to Thulam and Vrischigam and those for the Kumbham crop to Meenom and Medam. The garden tax has also been ordered to be recovered in four equal instalments in the above four months, the instalments for the punja crop being however left undisturbed.

8. Demand notice fees.—Another of the subjects mentioned at the last session, and about which consideration was promised, was the question of demand notice fees, which were being collected at varying rates with reference to distance. Orders have since issued that a uniform fee of four chackrams should be charged for all demand notices issued under the Revenue Recovery Regulation.

9. Tax receipt books.—This was another of the matters brought forward at the last session. Information was called for from the Peishkars in regard to the extent to which these books were being used and it was finally ordered—in the interests of the ryots as much as in that of Government—that the use of printed tax receipt books, issued by Government, should be insisted on in all settled taluks.

10. Thiruppuvaram.—This question had been under consideration for the past three years and it was discussed at more than one session of this Assembly. Final orders have been passed in the matter (after the year 1083 had closed) to the effect that the relations between the claimants to the *varam*, and the holders of the lands on which such *varam* might be charged, should not be interfered with by the Sirkar, but that the tax due to the Sirkar, as fixed by the Settlement department, should be collected without reference to those relations.

11. Survey.—The reduction of the establishment of the Survey department took effect early in the year. The general revenue survey of the State having been finished, the operations of the reduced department were confined to special and miscellaneous surveys, among which I would mention the cadastral survey of the tea and coffee estates within the Kannan Devan Hills concession and in the taluks of Shencottah, Changanacherry and Todupuzha.

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